

HONORING U.S. ARMY FIRST LIEUTENANT JOHN M. RUNKLE OF WEST SALEM, OHIO

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with the family of 1st Lt. John Runkle as we honor his memory and express our deepest gratitude for his service to America. Our Nation and our State lost one of its finest last month when Lt. Runkle of West Salem, OH died while serving our country in Operation Enduring Freedom in Kandahar, Afghanistan. A native Ohioan, John Runkle graduated from Northwestern High School in 2002 and then enlisted in the U.S. Army. Following a deployment to Iraq during 2004 and 2005, he entered West Point, where he went on to graduate in the top ten percent of his class.

In 2010 Lt. Runkle graduated from Ranger School and served with the 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. A standout servicemember in our Armed Forces, Lt. Runkle earned numerous commendations and medals during his career, including the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Lt. Runkle was 27 years old when his unit was struck by an improvised explosive device in Kandahar, Afghanistan on May 26, 2011. Lt. Runkle is survived by his father, John Runkle of Wooster, OH and his mother, Christine Runkle of West Salem, OH. He is also survived by his sister, Jane, and brothers Corey and Brent.

Although Lt. Runkle's life was cut far too short, the achievements he earned and the selfless service he gave to our Nation during his 27 years far exceeded what most of us could hope for in several lifetimes. Lt. Runkle represented the best of what America has to offer and his legacy will serve forever as a shining example of sacrifice, honor and a steadfast commitment to preserving freedom and liberty for all those that he left behind. Our country is a lesser place without him, but remains free and strong thanks to his service and his sacrifice.

CHINESE SPYING DEVICES INSTALLED ON HONG KONG CARS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article regarding the scope of Chinese espionage. The degree to which China spies on both its own people and foreigners is a reminder of the illegitimate security and economic practices of Beijing.

CHINESE SPYING DEVICES INSTALLED ON HONG KONG CARS

(By Albert Ding and Matthew Robertson)

For years now Chinese authorities have been installing spying devices on all dual-plate Chinese-Hong Kong vehicles, enabling a vast network of eavesdropping across the archipelago, according to a Hong Kong newspaper.

The report in Apple Daily states that the recording devices began being installed as "inspection and quarantine cards" in July 2007. They were installed without charge by the Shenzhen Inspection and Quarantine Bureau on thousands of vehicles.

Smugglers were the first to note something strange about the devices. A source told Apple Daily that after the cards were installed mainland authorities had no trouble picking off the cars carrying illicit goods.

"For every ten cars we ran we only had [smuggled goods] in three or four to reduce the risk, but the border agents caught all of them. The accuracy was unreal!" Apple Daily quoted the smuggler saying.

The device, no larger than a PDA, is taped onto the vehicle's front window. Protective tape covers the screws, presumably to prevent tampering—though it didn't stop Apple Daily from removing the devices, taking them to experts for inspection, and presenting pictures of them splayed open on their website, with neat graphics indicating the various internal components.

Apple Daily says they took the device to a university professor and a private investigator, both of whom attested to the espionage potential of the units.

Zhang Dawei, identified as "a private investigator of over 30 years," took a look at the device's internal structure and told the Daily that the card could certainly be used for eavesdropping.

An Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at City University of Hong Kong, Zheng Liming, took apart one of the devices and confirmed that it can listen in on conversations.

And the range is extensive, he said. "The signal receiving range is up to 20km, which means if the device installer wants to, they can listen even when the vehicles are in Hong Kong," he said.

Two of the regions in Hong Kong where the device can transmit data back to China are Sha tin and Tuen mun.

Much cheaper chips can be used to check inspection status for simple border crossings, Zhang said, "But this device uses chips commonly found in Bluetooth and voice recording devices, designed for receiving voice transmission."

He thus thought it "very likely" that they were being used for surveillance.

The Daily interviewed several Hong Kong drivers to gauge their reactions; predictably, they were often irate.

Ms. Deng, who operates a real estate business, said: "Even if we hired a maid, we are not allowed to install a surveillance camera in her room due to privacy issues! You can't just do whatever you want."

A senior manager in an unidentified company noted that those who qualify for the dual license plate usually have some financial clout. If their business conversations in the car were recorded and the information shared, he said, it may be enough to send people bankrupt.

HKBusiness.net, an online news site, says that businesses that invested more than \$1 million in mainland China and paid more than 30,000 yuan in tax over the past year qualify for a dual license plate.

Apple Daily quotes a source saying there are at least 20,000 cars with dual license plates, and tens of thousands of trucks and buses.

A reporter from the newspaper went to the Shenzhen Inspection and Quarantine Bureau and confronted them with the accusations. Staff on duty flatly denied the idea, Apple Daily said. Speaking Cantonese, they assured him that "It's not that high tech."

SMALL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, our economy is stalled. Our unemployment rate is still way too high. Two-thirds of all small business owners say it's a bad time to expand.

That's why it was important for me to spend part of last week meeting with local business and economic leaders in a Small Business Roundtable. We discussed how federal over-regulation hampers business growth and expansion. We talked about legislative reform and the different needs of businesses and industries of various sizes.

I spoke to the leaders of CAN DO, Greater Hazleton's economic development agency, which celebrated its 55th anniversary this year, and with the Columbia-Montour Chamber of Commerce. Everywhere I went, I spoke with business leaders who are in the trenches every single day. They understand how government impacts their companies. They see how high taxes and burdensome overregulation keep them from growing.

One of the commitments I made to the people of northeastern Pennsylvania was that I would take their voices here to Washington with me. Mr. Speaker, the business leaders back home are crying out for relief. They're asking for us to get off their backs. They want to be able to grow, to expand, to buy more equipment, and to hire more workers.

Roundtable talks are a way for me to stay in touch with groups of constituents who are experts in their fields, and to get their opinions about current and future regulations and legislation. The discussions we've had so far have been extremely helpful, and the free flow of ideas and comments between panel members is fantastic.

Also last week, I convened an education roundtable to talk about fixing our broken system. Local educators and I discussed ways we can improve the synergy between educational programs, and how we can remove classroom hurdles and let teachers teach the workforce of the future.

When I toured the manufacturing and research-and-development Schott North America's Advanced Optics and glass manufacturing facility in Duryea, Pennsylvania, I heard about their need for skilled workers. These are the kind of jobs we need in northeastern Pennsylvania and in the United States. We must make sure that educators are able to prepare young people for those jobs.

One place that is working to prepare the workforce of tomorrow is the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County in Scranton, a consortium of nine school districts in northeastern Pennsylvania that provides instruction in 26 career areas. I saw firsthand the instruction that is going on in the technology center, and I'm proud of the work they do for our young people.

Of course, nowadays, our children face many hurdles on the road to their future. A serious and growing hurdle is the increasing amount of gang activity. I know northeastern Pennsylvania is about the last place anyone would think about when it comes to gangs, but national gangs are drawn to our quiet towns and our quality of life. Last week, I proudly co-